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Letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 3 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/300), and pursuant to my identical letters dated 29 March 2018 to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/278) regarding missile launches during the Saudi military operations against Yemen, while the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless allegations contained in that letter, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

The baseless allegations raised by Saudi Arabia against the Islamic Republic of Iran, amidst their provocative and destabilizing measures in the region, are aimed at distracting the international community from their widespread and systematic crimes against the oppressed people of Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition's measures and non-discriminatory aerial attacks over the last three years have resulted in mass casualties, including women and children, displacing millions as well as amplifying poverty and hunger in an already poor country, thus leading to a surge in epidemic diseases. Such ruthless and expansionist policy measures, as well as the inhumane blockade and "using the threat of starvation as an instrument of war", are tantamount to war crimes and/or crimes against humanity that should be carefully investigated and duly prosecuted.

Indeed, the Saudi promotion of support for extremist and terrorist groups in the region, as well as their military and political intervention in the internal affairs of other States, constitute obvious threats to international peace and security. In Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall respect international law and the Charter of the United Nations by recognizing the Yemeni people's right to self-determination and submit to their legitimate demands.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia brazenly criticized the international efforts to find a political solution for this tragedy and voiced regret over the recent trips by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and a European Union delegation to Yemen for such purposes. This further demonstrates the principled Saudi position rejecting any promotion of dialogue despite international norms and obligations regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Contrary to the approach and arrogance of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution to this crisis from its very outbreak in 2015, as projected in the plan submitted to the Secretary-General and

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contained in documents S/2015/263 of 17 April 2015 and S/2017/949 of 13 November 2017. We continue to call on all parties in Yemen to pursue peaceful ways and means to resolve the conflict and firmly believe that only an inclusive Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue, supported by the international community and the United Nations, can put an end to this catastrophic humanitarian situation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative